

SUBJECT:	Waste Policy Review
REPORT OF:	Officer Management Team - Director of Services Prepared by - Head of Environment

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Members on the government review of waste policy and highlight potential impacts on SBDC and the Waste Partnership.

2. Links to Council Policy Objectives

- 2.1 This matter is related to the following local and national policy objectives:

- The Council's medium-term aim of helping to provide a clean and decent district where there is pride in, and ownership of, our surroundings and public spaces.
- Waste Strategy for Buckinghamshire recycling targets of 45% by 2010/11 and 60% by 2025.

3. Background.

- 3.1 The coalition government made a commitment to conduct a complete review of waste policy in their first year of government.
- 3.2 The outcome of this review was published in June 2011. The purpose of this report is to highlight to members some of the key changes in policy and the potential impacts on waste collection services in South Bucks following the review.

4. Discussion.

4.1 Collection Frequency.

The government has pledged to help councils increase the frequency and quality of rubbish collections; however, the review states that 'Waste services are a matter for local authorities to develop fit for purpose local solutions'. This implies there will be no compulsory moves to return to weekly collections although the review mentions a reasonable expectation of weekly collections for 'smelly' waste. 'Smelly' waste has not been defined although it is highly likely it refers to food waste.

4.2 'Recycling and Waste Services Commitment'

A new commitment building on the previous WRAP *Waste Services Commitment* will be published shortly; residents will be able to challenge those authorities that do not sign the commitment. SBDC will need to review current waste service standards to ensure they are in line with the new commitment.

4.3 Incentive Schemes

Funding will be available to local authorities to develop incentive schemes to reward recycling. Funding can be used for capital items and/or revenue costs but not fund the rewards themselves. The first round of funding closed on 26th July, the Waste Partnership considered options for an application but felt that an application was not appropriate at this time. An application will be considered

with particular regards to bulky waste and electrical items when the next round of funding becomes available.

4.4 Recycle on the Go

The government is keen to increase 'recycling on the go' and there will be WRAP support available for councils wishing to work with local businesses to explore the funding of recycle on the go infrastructure. We already have a number of recycling litter bins to facilitate this and it could present a good opportunity for us to increase our infrastructure and to build relationships with local businesses, particularly in the lead up to the Olympics.

4.5 Litter

The government sees litter as a priority area, with a focus on behaviour change and the social acceptability of litter rather than the focus on street cleansing. However a conflicting message has been portrayed by removing powers to issue fixed penalty notices to residents who place waste out too early for collection and cause litter.

Keep Britain Tidy has launched the 'Love Where you Live' campaign. SBDC is already leading the way on developing a county wide anti-litter campaign in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy. Developing recycle on the go infrastructure in SBDC would also strengthen this campaign.

4.6 Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS)

The LATS will end at the end of 2012/13 as landfill tax is now the more significant driver in reducing waste to landfill. The scheme has been identified as a barrier to local authorities providing services to small business therefore with the removal of LATS local authorities will be expected to enhance the services they provide to businesses. The Government aim to publish a Business Waste Commitment that sets out principles of how local authorities can help local businesses meet their waste management responsibilities.

At present SBDC does not operate commercial waste collections, SBDC may have to provide these collections in future if requested and there will be much more emphasis on recycling collections to SME's. In particular the government wants to encourage local authorities to consider adapting bring site facilities to accept business waste/recycling at an affordable cost.

4.7 Waste Prevention.

The review has prioritised waste management in line with the waste hierarchy placing an emphasis on prevention with plans to release a Waste Prevention Programme by Dec 2013. Government intends to create a Waste Prevention Fund for businesses, social enterprises and local authorities to undertake waste prevention activities. Following the principles of the 'Big Society' government wishes to encourage partnerships between local authorities, third party and charity organisations to increase re-use and recycling.

The Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire is one of four partnerships to have secured help from WRAP to set up a local reuse forum in order to encourage further re-use and to re-evaluate district bulky collections in order to divert more waste from landfill. This project will be running for the next year and SBDC may need to make some changes to bulky waste collections.

4.8 Changes to enforcement powers

- Local authorities can no longer carry out compositional analysis of household waste.

- Removal of criminal sanctions under s46 Environmental Protection Act and will be replacing with a civil sanctions regime.
- Implementing a new ‘harm to local amenity’ test to be carried out before civil sanctions pursued.
- Stronger powers to tackle fly-tipping and serious waste crime

4.9 Partnership Working

Government are keen to support greater joint working between local authorities although it seems likely that the statutory duty for a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy will be removed.

5. Resource and Wider Policy Implications.

- 5.1 SBDC may have to re-evaluate business waste collections and include consideration to recycling collections from SME’s within any future service changes.
- 5.2 Further resources may need to be directed towards recycle on the go infrastructure although government has highlighted the role of local businesses to support this.

6. Summary.

- 6.1 Environment PAG Members are asked to note the content of this report.

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Background Papers:	Services working file